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**Subject:** [External] Court gives FERC three weeks to re-issue pipeline permits

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By Alex Guillén

03/07/2018 04:43 PM EDT

The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals today gave FERC until March 26 to finish an update to its environmental reviews of three gas pipelines in the Southeast, avoiding a temporary shutdown of the pipelines.

The court [in August ruled](#) that FERC has to consider the related greenhouse gas emissions of pipelines it approves, including the Sabal Trail pipeline in Florida. The court sent three pipeline permits back to FERC for further analysis.

But FERC in February asked the court to delay the formal issuance of its ruling, known in legal lingo as "issuing the mandate," until later this month. Doing so before FERC was prepared would have vacated the certificates already issued to the pipeline operators, effectively forcing them to shut down and "potentially endangering the supply of electricity to Florida residents," the agency told the court last month.

FERC said it only needed until March 26 to finish the supplemental environmental impact statement and issue new certificates.

The D.C. Circuit's [order](#) today did not explain its reasoning, but a note from the analysis firm ClearView Energy Partners said they read the decision to be the court "keeping the Commission's feet to the proverbial fire."

**WHAT'S NEXT:** FERC has until March 26 to finish the additional environmental review and re-issue the certificates.

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